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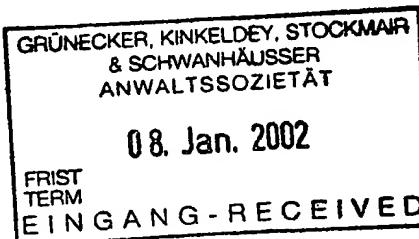
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire KAO CORPORATION ✓	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
① D, X✓	WO 99 60973 A (REZAI EBRAHIM ; TAO JIE (JP); PROCTER & GAMBLE (US)) 2 December 1999 (1999-12-02) * page 4, line 31 – page 6, line 30 * * page 8, line 4-9 * * page 9, line 8-24; figures 1,2 * ----	1-4	A61F13/514 A61F13/496
② X✓	GB 2 293 573 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 3 April 1996 (1996-04-03) * the whole document * ----	1-4	
③ X✓	WO 99 16401 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 8 April 1999 (1999-04-08) * the whole document * ----	1-4	
④ P, X✓	WO 00 38915 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 6 July 2000 (2000-07-06) * page 9, line 31 – page 10, line 21 * * page 15, line 11-20; claims; figures * ----	1-4	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)			
A61F			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
3	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	THE HAGUE	19 December 2001	Seabra, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : Intermediate document			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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